



THE WHITE HOUSE

Office of the Press Secretary

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FACT SHEET

The President's Address to the Nation

For the United States, the issue is one of preserving the standards of a civilized international community against this act of violence. In cooperation with other nations, the U. S. has asked the USSR for a full account of what happened, participation in the search operation, assurances that the USSR will not use destructive force against unarmed aircraft in the future, and compensation for the victims of this tragedy.

In order to realize these objectives, the United States has taken or will take specific actions in the areas of international diplomacy, aviation security and safety, and bilateral relations.

DIPLOMATIC EFFORTS

In cooperation with other nations, the U.S. will continue to press for a full account of what happened, an apology, an admission of responsibility, and appropriate punishments to those responsible.

Secretary Shultz will raise this issue as a matter of urgent concern during his scheduled meeting with Soviet Foreign Minister Gromyko in Madrid on September 8.

As part of our continuing consultations, Assistant Secretary of State Richard Burt met today with a group of ambassadors representing our allies and friends. We have kept them informed of the facts related to the incident and conducted discussions aimed at achieving common action.

The U. S. and Japan have requested the Soviets to grant immediate access into their territorial waters to extend the search effort, but the USSR has not yet agreed. We will continue to press the Soviet Union for immediate access to any wreckage or bodies recovered.

The U.S. along with South Korea and Japan called an emergency meeting of the United Nations Security Council. Ambassador Kirkpatrick will make public during tomorrow's session the full tape of the Soviet pilots' discussions as they downed the Korean airliner.

BILATERAL ACTIONS

We have informed the Soviets that we are suspending negotiations on several bilateral arrangements that we had under consideration. Future progress on these arrangements will certainly be affected by this incident.

We have notified the Soviets that we will not renew our bilateral agreement for cooperation in the field of transportation. This agreement, first signed in June 1973, was renewed in 1978 and again in 1980. The agreement was renewed for 18 months in June of this year. We have now informed the Soviets that we are cancelling the renewal.

AVIATION SAFETY AND SECURITY

The U.S. is conducting intensive discussions on measures to secure coordinated international action that will address the urgent issue of civil aviation safety. We have joined with

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other countries to request the International Civil Aviation Organization to investigate this Soviet action at a special session of the Council.

The U. S. has reaffirmed its previous order denying the Soviet airline, Aeroflot, the right to fly to the United States. We originally announced the suspension of all Aeroflot's scheduled flights in December 1981 as one of the sanctions imposed after the declaration of martial law in Poland.

The U.S. will work with other members of the international community in implementing measures that will further inhibit the operations of Aeroflot. We will also work to suspend non-safety related discussions between Aeroflot and other national civil aviation bodies.

The U. S. will support appropriate measures by international non-governmental groups in their efforts to isolate Soviet aviation. Various labor organizations are already considering ways to restrict support for Aeroflot flights, such as ground operations and services.

The U. S. will be presenting an omnibus claim on behalf of U. S. nationals who lost their lives and any other U. S. property interest involved. This claim would be filed through diplomatic channels.

We will continue our internal activities and our consultations with the international community as further facts are obtained concerning the shootdown and as we evaluate the Soviet response. Other measures may be considered as a result of these ongoing activities and consultations.

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